

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examining Attorney has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,634,016 to Steadham in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,911,143 to Deinhart. The Examiner has also provided specific objections to claims 2-11 based upon Steadham or Deinhart and collectively rejected claims 12-20 based upon his comments in rejecting claims 1-11. Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner's rejections. Additionally, the Examiner has requested that formal drawings be filed with the application.

Drawings

Applicant has filed formal drawings concurrently with this amendment.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The present invention is directed to an event management system that allows the event provider as well as event clients, vendors and suppliers to access, update and match a central repository having information associated with a particular event. One feature of the invention is that the access of the event clients, vendors and suppliers to the repository is limited by a restriction component such that each client, vendor or supplier is allowed access only to defined portions of information in the repository. The system allows all users real-time access to event information. This real-time access can include access to real-time video feeds from production sites and event sites. Indeed, through the use of the present invention event participants are able to coordinate event planning in real time to thereby increase overall efficiency and cost savings.

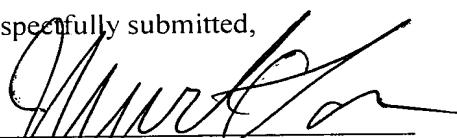
Unlike the present invention, the Steadham reference does not provide a system for use by an event provider and a plurality of event clients, suppliers and vendors to collectively plan and coordinate an event. Instead, the Steadham reference provides a system that allows

a facility to prepare bids for hosting an event. See column 1, lines 14-20. In preparing a bid, the Steadham system uses a database that is associated with a CAD system. Using the CAD system, facility personnel can design a room layout for a particular event (such as a wedding or banquet). Meanwhile, the database of Steadham allows the facility manager to plan for food and labor considerations. Steadham clearly does not teach or suggest the advantage of allowing a plurality of event clients, suppliers or vendors real-time access to the system to assist in event coordination. This of course is not unexpected given the purpose of Steadham only in the preparation of bids.

Steadham also does not teach or suggest the use of video cameras to provide the event provider, clients, vendors and suppliers with real-time views of event and production sites. Instead, the clients of Steadham are simply provided with a videocassette that shows various views of proposed room layouts that have been uploaded to the videocassette by the CAD system. Therefore, the clients, vendors and suppliers of Steadham have no ability to control or monitor event or production sites once a particular bid has been approved.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in proper form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Judith T. Lange
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